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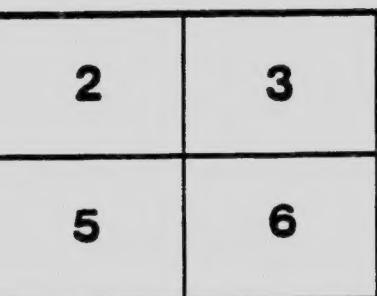
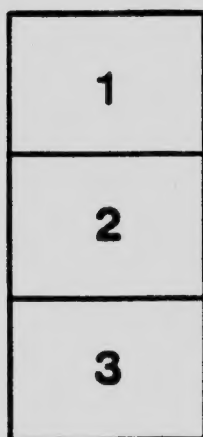
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**No. I.**

**POLICY OF THE NAVY LEAGUE  
OF CANADA**

BY

**ÆMILIUS JARVIS**

*President, Ontario Division, Navy League of Canada*

The work that the Navy League of Canada has set itself to perform, and the policy that it has advocated are the policy and practice of great British leaders for over a century, namely:

**PRINCIPLES—**

*That sea power dominates world action in days of peace as well as in war times.*

*That sea power in the hands of a great peace-loving, commercial, financial and trading Empire, such as the British Empire, means peace, so far as one Empire or group of British Nations can compel it, and that in the case of an aggressive war forced upon the world by some other Power, it is the surest element of victory.*

*That to each of the growing partner nations of the British Empire, sea power spells safe water routes between one part and the other part of the Empire, with protection to its water-borne commerce, in peace as well as in war, a security greater than any small peoples can hope for outside of such an Empire, and greater indeed than any of the chief nations of the world possess at the present time.*

**POLICY—**

*That the Navy League should help, so far as Canada can help, in strengthening the bases of this protection by promoting popular appreciation in this Dominion of Naval history, traditions, functions and duties.*

*That it should influence national action and policy along maritime lines by a wider knowledge of what the Royal Navy and a Merchant Marine mean to each and all of us at home, when travelling abroad, or when shipping or receiving merchandise from overseas.*

*That it should give sympathetic support to the men who man these fleets and who have borne the long-sustained burden and stress of the great war which has recently ended.*

(It must be borne in mind that the merchant seaman was the class of the community against which German sea power aimed its greatest efforts of terrorism and destruction. It did not dare in more than a spasmodic way to challenge the Royal Navy.)

*That it should help at the proper time any naval policy that our Government may evolve which is based upon naval strategy as applied to the Empire, and should support Imperial trade and the real freedom of the seas, while exercising through the franchise of its members an influence on Members of Parliament so that never again shall this vastly important subject be made a political football.*

With such objects in view, the Navy League of Canada was organized at Montreal in June, 1917, in co-operation, in harmony, and in affiliation with the educational work of the Navy League of Great Britain. Their Excellencies, the Duke and Duchess of Devonshire, became patrons, also the Lieutenant-Governors of all Provinces. Mr. W. G. Ross, the Chairman

of the Board of Harbour Commissioners of Montreal, was elected First President, Mr. M. P. Fennell, Jr., became Treasurer, Lieut.-Colonel C. G. Williams, Hon. Secretary-Treasurer, and the following line of local action was announced:

1. A thoroughly organized educational campaign in matters pertaining to the Navy and Mercantile Marine.

(a) By lectures.

(b) By the circulation of literature.

(c) By placing Readers in public schools.

2. To raise funds for the relief of British and Canadian sailors and their dependents, for Sailor's Homes, Institutes and Hospitals in Canada and throughout the Empire.

3. To encourage volunteer Naval Brigades for boys and young men in which they can receive practical and theoretical instruction in seamanship to prepare them for service in our Mercantile Marine.

It was laid down as a fundamental principle of the League that its objects, membership, management and conduct should be absolutely unconnected with and free from all party politics and from any organization connected with party politics. Winnipeg, Victoria, Hamilton, Quebec, Toronto, and one or two other places in Canada had already formed Branches of the Navy League of England. The Winnipeg Branch became the nucleus of the Manitoba Division of the Canadian organization; Victoria, the nucleus of the British Columbia Division. The Quebec Branch came into the Quebec Division. The Toronto Branch became the nucleus of the Ontario Division, and later the Hamilton Branch also joined. The other Provinces all fell into line, and on the 1st of February, 1918, the first general meeting was held, and the present Constitution adopted. The Governor-General and the Duchess of Devonshire, and the Lieutenant-Governors of all the Provinces remained Patrons of the League. Sir John C. Eaton of Toronto, and Mr. T. B. Macaulay of Montreal, became Hon. Presidents, and the following, by virtue of their Presidency of Provincial Divisions, became the first Dominion Council:

|                            |                      |
|----------------------------|----------------------|
| Alberta .....              | Pat. Burns           |
| Saskatchewan .....         | G. E. McCraney       |
| Manitoba .....             | W. R. Allen          |
| British Columbia .....     | Arthur Coles         |
| Ontario .....              | Commodore Jarvis     |
| Nova Scotia .....          | F. K. Warren         |
| New Brunswick .....        | Col. E. T. Sturdee   |
| Prince Edward Island ..... | Hon. J. A. Mathieson |

In Ontario, Sir John C. Eaton, S.S.D., was and is the Hon. President; Æmilius Jarvis, S.S.D., President; Sir John Aird, Vice-President; and in turn Lieut.-Colonel C. G. Williams and H. W. King have been Secretary-Treasurer, with the Chairmen of all Branches and following gentlemen as the Executive:

|                     |                         |                   |
|---------------------|-------------------------|-------------------|
| F. F. Brentnall     | H. N. Cowan             | A. M. Hobberlin   |
| J. Castell Hopkins  | C. T. Pearce            | Rev. Father Burke |
| Major H. C. MacLean | J. M. Godfrey           | W. J. Lind        |
| Hon. James Craig    | Commander F. C. Law     | Robert Inglis     |
| N. L. Martin        | George E. Evans         | C. A. B. Brown    |
| H. G. Kelly         | H. H. Macrae            | W. Wily           |
| F. D. L. Smith      | Commodore C. G. Marlatt | H. J. Wickham     |

So rapid was the growth of the League that by the end of 1918, less than a year, the membership had grown to the following numbers in each Division: Alberta, 1,556; British Columbia, 1,330; Manitoba, 1,530; New Brunswick, 4,607; Nova Scotia, 2,403; Ontario, 31,443; Prince Edward Island, 83; Quebec, 9,311; Saskatchewan, 325, or a total of 52,538. In September, 1918, a systematic campaign was commenced in Ontario, and followed by some other Divisions, to raise funds for Object No. 2, namely, Relief work, with the following approximate results, though the returns from Alberta, British Columbia and Nova Scotia are incomplete:

|                    |                |                      |                      |
|--------------------|----------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| Ontario .....      | \$1,127,000.00 | British Columbia ... | 20,000.00            |
| Quebec .....       | 300,000.00     | Prince Edward Island | 2,700.00             |
| Manitoba .....     | 160,000.00     | Nova Scotia .....    | 68,300.00            |
| New Brunswick .... | 25,000.00      |                      |                      |
| Alberta .....      | 25,000.00      |                      |                      |
|                    |                |                      | <hr/> \$1,728,000.00 |

The total was \$1,728,000.00. That these funds were desperately needed does not require much stretch of imagination to see when we consider that nearly 16,000 merchant seamen and 33,361 Royal Naval, and Royal Auxiliary, men had lost their lives in the War and that the distress in Great Britain and other parts of the Empire among their dependents was very serious. The Merchant Seamen and their dependents we have chiefly taken under our protection because the naval seaman does receive recognition from the Imperial or Dominion Governments, but the merchant seaman has not been officially recognized by the Governments as performing a national service and with so many of this class of seaman lost, tens of thousands incapacitated, maimed and diseased by exposure, and 3,000 returned prisoners of whom 80% were in the second or third stages of tuberculosis, it will be quickly recognized that the various Institutes spread throughout the United Kingdom and elsewhere in the Empire are taxed to their utmost to meet such an enormous war-time strain on their resources, with a serious decrease in their revenues.

In order to better promote our principles, the League has established a journal called *The Sailor* as its official organ. Already this paper has reached a circulation of 53,000. The policy is to have every associate and full member of the League receive this paper so that they may be kept informed of the League's activities, and by degrees, help to educate the community in the value of sea-power.

Sea power, as expressed by merchant tonnage or naval fleets, is of direct interest to every Canadian engaged in earning a livelihood, conducting a factory, exporting or importing goods, raising grain or engaged in mixed farming. It is difficult to make the grain-growers of the Western Provinces, or the mixed farmers of Quebec and Ontario realize the fact that without a Merchant Service their products could not be

exported. In the past they have given little thought to what became of these products. Let me beseech them to think. Are they **WISHED** to the markets of the world? NO, they are conveyed to the sea by railways, and from thence, abroad, by ships. Therefore, to insure the continuance and enlargement of shipments and safety in reaching their point of destination,—in enabling the country as a community to reap its full reward we must have a Merchant Marine and its protecting Fleet. If a Canadian fleet is to be depended upon in times of war it must be manned by the native-born. This last feature is the mainstay of the United Kingdom's strength. The immense reserve of native-born seamen that England was able to rally to her standards was one of the very chief factors in winning the world war.

Again, as a medium of education, the League's Educational Committee in Ontario is engaged in the preparation of a Naval Reader, written by the best naval authority in Canada, Lieut.-Colonel William Wood, F.R.S.C., Quebec. This Reader will be submitted to the Minister of Education for his approval. It should be a permanent factor in educating the young people of the country to a real appreciation of the work of the Navy and the Merchant Marine, and in knowledge of the vital character of sea power. In furtherance of its policy of aiding in the education of the young for a maritime career, the League, through its Naval Brigades, is inculcating a practical knowledge of seafaring subjects so that when the policy of construction of merchant ships, now entered upon by the Government, is completed, there will be a nucleus to man the native-born crews. This education of the young, under conditions of competent training, develops manhood and physique, intelligence and patriotism, and a knowledge of practical things which are of great value to the boy, quite apart from any decision he may subsequently make to become a sailor or not.

I might add that in the year 1918, as the result of our first appeal for funds, \$120,000 was set aside to send to the Navy League in England at the rate of £2,000 per month; \$100,000 was set aside for the Division in Nova Scotia to erect a Sailors' Home at the Eastern portal of Canada's commerce; \$30,000 was set aside for the British Columbia Division to help Sailors' Institutes in the Western portal of Canada's commerce; \$25,000 was set aside to carry on Educational work. The result of this latter expenditure was directly responsible for the wonderful success of our second appeal resulting in the collection of \$1,728,000.

TORONTO, JAN. 2, 1919.

**Published under the Auspices of the Dominion  
Educational Committee, Navy League of Canada.**

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